

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

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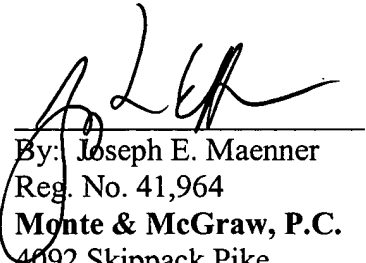
## CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request consideration and examination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Uwe B. Sleytr et al.

2/11/2003  
Date

  
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